



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of Campaign & Political Finance

One Ashburton Place, Boston 02108

727-8352

Dennis J. Duffin
Director

AO-1984-13
September 7, 1984

Mr. James L. Standish, Chairman
Stoneham Republican Town Committee
2 Richardson Road
Stoneham, MA 02180

Dear Mr. Standish:

This is in response to your recent request for an Advisory Opinion relative to the application of M.G.L. c. fifty-five, the campaign finance law, to activities of the Stoneham Republican Town Committee. I will address the points you have raised in your letter with the following analysis.

Chapter fifty-five as well as regulations promulgated thereunder applies to all political committees organized for the purpose of participating in political campaign finance activities at the state, county, city or town level. While a few narrow provisions of the law may apply solely to elected political committees, or non-elected political committees, the statute as a whole, does not treat these types of political committees differently. A political committee such as the Stoneham Republican Town Committee shall organize by filing with this office a Statement of Organization Form CPF 101. Section five of Chapter fifty-five provides that this "Statement of Organization shall include: (1) the name of the political committee which, if organized on behalf of a candidate, shall include the name of the candidate in said name; (2) the address of the political committee (3) a statement of the purpose for which the political committee is organized; (4) the name and residential address of the chairman and the treasurer; (5) the name, residential address, and position of other principal officers, including officers and members of the finance committee, if any, and; (6) the name and address, if known, and party affiliation of each candidate the political committee is supporting; provided, however, that if a candidate is nominated without reference to a political party, the name of his political party shall not be required."

Each political committee must have a treasurer who in the case of the Stoneham Republican Town Committee, qualifies for that office by filing a written acceptance thereof with this office. Section five further provides that "Said treasurer shall remain subject to all the duties and liabilities imposed by this chapter until his written resignation of the office is received or his successor's written acceptance is filed as aforesaid." The duties and liabilities imposed on the treasurer of a political committee are comprehensive, and includes such responsibilities

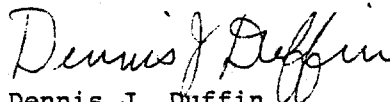
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as keeping and preserving detailed accounts, vouchers and receipts.

You have also inquired about the responsibility of notifying this office of newly elected officers of a political committee. Section five requires, as cited above, that political committees file with this office, on their Statement of Organization, names and addresses of the Chairman and Treasurer, as well as the names, addresses and positions of any other principal officers. The section clearly states that "Any change in information previously submitted in a Statement of Organization shall be reported to the director...within ten days following the change." Furthermore, section five provides that "No person acting under the authority of, or on behalf of, any political committee shall receive any money or anything of value, or expend or disburse the same, or incur expenses while it has no treasurer qualified as aforesaid, or while the name and address of any of its officers or members, as originally or subsequently chosen, is not filed in accordance with the provisions of this section of chapter fifty-two, as the case may be." Section five of Chapter fifty-two provides, that the treasurer of each city, ward and town committee shall qualify for his office by filing a written acceptance thereof with the Director of the Office of Campaign and Political Finance.

I hope the above has been responsive to your request. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information.

Very truly yours,



Dennis J. Duffin
Director

DJD/rep